

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a message handler comprising:

a registration notification message receiver to receive a registration notification message over a TCP/IP connection; and

a registration notification message forwarder to forward a said registration notification message received by a mobile switching center over an Internet connection.

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2. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 1, wherein:

said internet connection utilizes a TCP/IP protocol.

3. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 1, wherein:

said registration notification message forwarder copies all registration notification messages received by said mobile switching center.

4. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 1, further comprising:

a wireless Internet gateway to transmit said forwarded notification message over said Internet connection.

5. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 4, wherein:

A said registration notification message handler communicates with said wireless Internet gateway using a Signaling System #7 communications protocol.

6. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 1, wherein:

said registration notification message is previously forwarded by a Home Location Register (HLR).

7. (currently amended) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a message handler comprising:

an MSInactivity message receiver to receive an MSInactivity message over a TCP/IP connection; and

an MSInactivity message forwarder to forward ~~an~~ said MSInactivity message received by a mobile switching center over an Internet connection.

8. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 7, wherein:

said internet connection utilizes a TCP/IP protocol.

9. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 7, wherein:

said MSInactivity message forwarder copies all MSInactivity messages received by said mobile switching center.

10. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 7, further comprising:

a wireless Internet gateway to transmit said forwarded MSInactivity message over said Internet connection.

11. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 10, wherein:

said MSInactivity message handler communicates with said wireless Internet gateway using a Signaling System #7 communications protocol.

12. (original) In a short message service center, a module for permitting automatic status tracking of a wireless chat participant by an application external to a service provider including said short message service center, a handler according to claim 7, wherein:

said MSInactivity message is previously forwarded by a Home Location Register (HLR).

13. (currently amended) A method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant, comprising:

receiving an IS-41 conforming registration notification message from a mobile switching center over a TCP/IP connection; and

automatically forwarding said IS-41 conforming registration notification message over an Internet connection to an external chat server.

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14. (original) The method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 13, wherein:

said registration notification message is a REGNOT message.

15. (original) The method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 13, wherein:

said Internet connection utilizes a TCP/IP protocol.

16. (original) The method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 13, wherein:

said registration notification message is additionally forwarded by an SMSC.

17. (original) The method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 13, further comprising:

automatically adding a user corresponding to said automatically forwarded registration notification message to a chat session.

18. (original) The method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 17, further comprising:

automatically notifying other chat participants regarding a presence of the automatically added user.

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19. (original) The method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 17, further comprising:

automatically sending a list of chat participants to said user.

20. (original) The method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 13, wherein:

said registration notification message is signaling system #7 and IS-41 compliant.

21. (original) The method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 13, wherein:

said registration notification message is IS-41 compliant.

22. (currently amended) Apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant, comprising:

means for receiving an IS-41 conforming registration notification message from a mobile switching center over a TCP/IP connection; and

means for automatically forwarding said IS-41 conforming registration notification message over an Internet connection to an external chat server.

23. (original) The apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 22, wherein:

said registration notification message is a REGNOT message.

24. (original) The apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 22, wherein:

said Internet connection utilizes a TCP/IP protocol.

25. (original) The apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for forwarding said registration notification message by an SMSC to said means for automatically forwarding.

26. (original) The apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for automatically adding a user corresponding to said automatically forwarded registration notification message to a chat session.

27. (original) The apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 26, further comprising:

means for automatically notifying other chat participants regarding a presence of the automatically added user.

28. (original) The apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 26, further comprising:

means for automatically sending a list of chat participants to said user.

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29. (original) The apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 22, wherein:

said registration notification message is signaling system #7 and IS-41 compliant.

30. (original) The apparatus for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant according to claim 22, wherein:

said registration notification message is IS-41 compliant.

31. (currently amended) A method for automatically notifying an external chat server of a presence of a chat session participant, comprising:

receiving an IS-41 conforming MSInactivity notification message from a mobile switching center over a TCP/IP connection; and

automatically forwarding said IS-41 conforming MSInactivity message over an Internet connection to an external chat server.